

REMARKS

Claims 1-45 are pending in this application. Applicants have amended claims 1, 4, 23, 26, 38, 40 and 43. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 4 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as having insufficient antecedent basis. By amending claims 4 and 26 so as to depend from claims 3 and 25, respectively, Applicants have provided proper antecedent basis for those claims.

Applicants, therefore, respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 4 and 26 under §112.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 8-10, 16, 23, 24, 26, 31, and 38-44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Mogi (U.S. Patent No. 6,115,064).

Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments to independent claims 1, 23 and 38 more specifically describe that the operation performed by the second system controller and the control preparatory operation performed by the first system controller are not dependent on each other. Also, the control preparatory operation is initiated in accordance with the turning on of the power supply to the system controller. The amendment to independent claim 40 is aimed at specifying that the three initializations are performed independently of each other.

In Mogi, on the other hand, as described in col. 7, lines 17-41, the fading operation by the camera microcomputer 125 is performed in response to the fading start signal F1 that is generated by the lens microcomputer 115 in accordance the execution of the lens resetting

operation. Applicants also submit that the fading operation of Mogi is not a control preparatory operation.

Thus, for the above reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the operations described in claims 1, 23, 38 and 40 are not taught or suggested by Mogi. As a result, Applicants respectfully submit that those claims are not anticipated by Mogi.

Claims 2, 4, 6, 8-10 and 16 depend directly from independent claim 1. Because claim 1 is patentable over the cited art, claims 2, 4, 6, 8-10 and 16 are also patentable for at least similar reasons based on their dependency.

Claims 24, 26 and 31 depend directly from independent claim 23. Because claim 23 is patentable over the cited art, claims 24, 26 and 31 are also patentable for at least similar reasons based on their dependency.

Claims 39 depends directly from independent claim 38. Because claim 39 is patentable over the cited art, claim 38 is also patentable for at least similar reasons based on its dependency.

Claims 41-44 depend, directly and indirectly from independent claim 40. Because claim 40 is patentable over the cited art, claims 41-44 are also patentable for at least similar reasons based on their dependency.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 8-10, 16, 23, 24, 26, 31, and 38-44 under §102(e) is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 3 and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mogi in view of Winter (U.S. 4,521,678).

Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mogi in view of Yamagami et al. (U.S. 6,229,954).

Claims 11, 17, 28 and 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mogi.

Claims 12-15, 18-22, 29-30, and 33-37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mogi in view of Goo et al. (U.S. 5,309,195).

Claims 5 and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mogi et al. in view of Goo et al. and further in view of Ozawa (U.S. 5,721,987).

Claim 45 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mogi in view of Fukushima (JP 06-095754).

As discussed above, Applicants contend that since Mogi does not teach the claimed subject matter recited in amended claims 1, 23 and 40, Applicant's claimed invention is not anticipated by Mogi.

Claims 3, 5, 7, 11-15 and 17-22 depend, directly and indirectly from independent claim 1. Because claim 1 is patentable over the cited art, claims 3, 5, 7, 11-15 and 17-22 are also patentable for at least similar reasons based on their dependency.

Claims 25, 27, 29-30 and 32-37 depend, directly and indirectly from independent claim 23. Because claim 23 is patentable over the cited art, claims 25, 27, 29-30 and 32-37 are also patentable for at least similar reasons based on their dependency.

Claim 45 depends indirectly from independent claim 40. Because claim 40 is patentable over the cited art, claim 45 is also patentable for at least similar reasons based on its dependency.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 5, 7, 11-15, 17-22, 27-30 and 32-37, under §103 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims and allowance of this application.

AUTHORIZATION

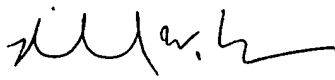
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-4578. A DUPLICATE OF THIS DOCUMENT IS ATTACHED.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-4578. A DUPLICATE OF THIS DOCUMENT IS ATTACHED.

Respectfully submitted,
MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.

Dated: October 28, 2003

By: _____


Richard W. Erwine
Registration No. 41,737
(212) 758-4800 Telephone
(212) 751-6849 Facsimile

Correspondence Address:

MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.
345 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10154-0053